(b) Four letters of intent have been granted so far.

White Paper on Steel Industry

1415. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue a white paper on steel industry; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government are engaged in reviewing the growth and present situation of the steel industry and mapping out its direction and course of development till the end of the century. It is yet to be decided whether this survey will be brought out in the form of a White Paper.

Financial Assistance for growing of Mushroom

1416. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks are offering financial assistance for acquiring working capital and equipment for growing mushroom in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Concessions to fertilizer companies

1417. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the concessions extended by Government to the fertilizer companies; and

(b) for how long the concessions are likely to continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Various tax and price concessions admissible to the fertiliser companies at present are as follows:

(i) Concessional customs duty of 15 per cent is levied for project imports.

(ii) There is exemption from customs.. duty for import of raw materials viz. rock phosphate, sulphur and amonia.

(iii) Naphtha, LSHS and furnace oil are supplied at concessional prices to the fertilizer industry.

(b) There is no proposal, at present, to withdraw these concessions.

Payment of Compensation under the Crop Insurance Scheme by the Rajasthan State Government

1418. SHRI ALADI AURNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the default on the part of Rajasthan Government towards payment of its share under Crop Insurance Scheme to compensate farmers hit by draught during the current year; and

(b) what steps are being taken by the Centre to enable the farmers to collect the compensation from State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan has not paid its 1/3rd share towards the settlement of indemnity claims for compensating farmers hit by drought in Rajasthan under the Crop Insurance Scheme during Kharif 1986 season. However, the Centre has already cleared settlement of